

**II. CLAIMS 4 AND 6-12 SATISFY THE
REQUIREMENTS OF 35 U.S.C §112, FIRST PARAGRAPH**

The Office Action rejects claims 4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which is not described in the specification in such a way to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2 and 4 are amended. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claims 2 and 4 obviate the rejection of claims 4 and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, and 6-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

**III. THE CLAIMS SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS
OF 35 U.S.C §112, SECOND PARAGRAPH**

The Office Action rejects the claims on the grounds that they are narrative and fail to conform to U.S. practice. The claims are amended to obviate this rejection. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

**IV. CLAIMS 1 AND 3 DEFINE PATENTABLE
SUBJECT MATTER PURSUANT TO 35 U.S.C. §102**

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,727,416 to Allgoewer (hereinafter "Allgoewer"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 2. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the

rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is moot.

**V. CLAIMS 2, 5, 6 and 10 DEFINE PATENTABLE
SUBJECT MATTER PURSUANT TO 35 U.S.C. §103**

The Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Allgoewer. The Office Action further rejects claims 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Allgoewer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,582,061 to Harsch et al. (hereinafter "Harsch"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Allgoewer discloses a transfer device for metal working. In Allgoewer, the transporting apparatus is a traveling carriage extending through the entire press line.

In contrast, claim 2 of the invention provides a processing station that includes an independent transporting apparatus, the independent transporting apparatus including a disengageable cross-member rotatably mounted to the transporting apparatus and a sucker cross member movable mounted on the cross-member, wherein a slide is mounted in a linear guide on the cross-member and wherein said slide is horizontally displaceable. Thus, Applicants' invention allows for independent operation, in contrast to Allgoewer which provides a common transfer rail extending through the entire press line. The transporting apparatus in accordance with the claimed invention is independent between each processing station.

Harsch discloses a transport device for workpieces in a press. However, Harsch fails to supply the deficiencies of Allgoewer as described above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Allgoewer and Harsch combined fail to disclose the

invention recited in claim 2. Further, there is no motivation to combine and/or modify the teachings of Allgoewer and Harsch to arrive at the invention recited in claim 2. Thus, claim 2 is distinguishable over the combination of Allgoewer and Harsch. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested. Further, withdrawal of the rejection of dependant claims 5, 6, and 10 is respectfully requested for at least the reasons described above.

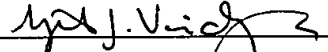
VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnest solicited. Should the Examiner believe that any thing further is necessary to expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:

Mark-up copy of claims

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, replace the paragraph staring at line 5 with the following new paragraph: "Description" to --Field of the Invention--

At page 1, replace the paragraph starting at line 11 with the following new paragraph:

The invention relates to a press line or multi-stage press for large components, having a transporting apparatus for transporting workpieces, according to the preamble of claim 1.

At page 1, replace the paragraph staring at line 16 with the following new paragraph: "Prior Art" to --Background of the Invention--

At page 3, replace the paragraph staring at line 26 with the following new paragraph: Object and advantage of the invention" to --Summary of the Invention--

At page 3, replace the paragraph staring at line 33 with the following new paragraph:

This object is achieved, taking as the departure point a transporting system in accordance with the invention as described below [according to the preamble of Claim 1, by the characterizing features of Claim 1. Advantageous and expedient developments of the transporting system are specified in the subclaims]. Advantages of the invention as described in the description below and in view of the claims.

At page 5, replace the paragraph staring at line 7 with the following new

paragraph: "In the figures" to --Brief Description of the Drawings--

At page 5, replace the paragraph staring at line 16 with the following new paragraph: "Description of an exemplary embodiment" to --Detailed Description of the Invention--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 2-5 as follows:

2. (Amended) An apparatus for transporting and changing the position of a single or double workpiece in a press, pressline or multi-stage press for large components having a processing station, wherein each processing station comprises:
an independent transporting apparatus, the independent transporting apparatus including a disengageable cross-member rotatably mounted to the transporting apparatus and a sucker cross member movable mounted on the cross-member, wherein a slide is mounted in a linear guide on the cross-member and wherein said slide is horizontally displaceable [Apparatus for transporting and changing the position of single or double workpieces in a press, press line, multi-stage press for large components (1) or the like, each processing station (8, 9) having an independent transporting apparatus (2) with disengageable crossmember (5), characterized in that sucker crossmember (13) is mounted in a movable manner on crossmember (5)].

3. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the rotatably cross-member forms a universal joint [Apparatus according to Claim 1, characterized in that the spherical mounting of crossmember (5) is a universal

joint].

4. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein slide is horizontally displaceable via a rod and spindle nut system driven by a drive [Apparatus according to Claim 2, characterized in that slide (27) is mounted in linear guide (28) on crossmember (5) and can be displaced horizontally, via rod (29) and spindle/nut system (21) by drive (19)].

5. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the cross-member includes a plurality of guides having a circle segment, and wherein the sucker cross-member is guided on the guides [Apparatus according to Claim 2, characterized in that arranged on crossmember (5) are guides (26) in which the circle segment (24), which bears the sucker crossmember (13), is guided].